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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: 4110/1F080-US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Akihiko NAGAI

Serial No.: To be Assigned (continuation-in-part application of Serial No. 09/303,980)

Confirmation No.:

Filed: Herewith

For: VACUUM DEAERATION DEVICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In order to comply with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon.

In accordance with MPEP Sections 609 and 707.05(b), it is requested that each document cited (including any cited in applicant's specification which is not repeated on the attached Form PTO-1449) be given thorough consideration and that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing Form PTO-1449 next to the document. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider a cited document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application.

The undersigned is also enclosing herewith a copy of a European Search Report issued for the counterpart European patent application (Application No. 99 81 0003), in which the presently disclosed references were cited. Since a translation of the Search Report is also enclosed, or the Search Report utilizes conventional codes to characterize each cited reference, it is believed that the applicants in the above-identified patent application have now met the "concise explanation" requirement of 37 C.F.R. 1.98. In addition, applicant has provided A copy of each corresponding English-language patent or application. In particular, U.S. Patent No. 3,884,885 is a corresponding English-language patent of DE 2437161, while GB 2 014 870 is a corresponding English-language patent of DE 2907188. Please note that U.S. Patent No. 5,538,535 is a corresponding English-

language patent of DE 4327582, however the '535 was previously cited by the Examiner in the April 18, 2000 Office Action.

This submission is filed before a first action on the merits has been mailed.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56, but the citation of such document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner, in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) and, in the course of each search, will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

It is believed that no fee is due. However, if the Commissioner determines that a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the above deposit account for any deficiency.

Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 14, 2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl F. Cohen", written over a horizontal line.

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